First Presbyterian Church

Weekly News Update

Thursday, March 19, 2020
Sunday, March 22, 2020 - 10:45 a.m. - Livestream
4th Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Preambule
Louis Vierne

Hymn

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
No. 172

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-41

Anthem

The Lord is My Shepherd
Kyle Stanberry, Clarinet
John Rutter

Sermon:

“Healing Blindness or Not”
The Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

Offertory

This Old Hammer-Traditional Spiritual
Terry McManis, Baritone; Steve Bixler, Guitar

Hymn

All Who Love and Serve Your City
No. 413

Postlude

Allegro
Everett Titcomb

ANNOUNCEMENTS & REMINDERS

Dear FPC Family,

Given the recent developments regarding how to lessen the spread of the COVID 19 virus, with the President of the United States and our Governor recommending no meetings greater than 10 and Sedgwick County mandating no meetings greater than 50, it has become obvious that we must transition from a brick and mortar church to a virtual church for at least the next 4 weeks, maybe longer depending on what the new recommendations are. As I mentioned in my sermon on Sunday (that was watched by 245 through livestreaming), we must find ways to practice Social distancing but not Spiritual distancing, encouraging faith not fear. Towards this end, the Session has passed the following measures:

- Cancel all meetings greater than 10 at the church for the next four weeks
- Cancel Sunday services—conduct a 10:45 a.m. livestreaming service with the help of music staff and Liz will record Kids Connection
- Cancel Wednesday Night Activities; conduct Adult Education via Zoom, conduct Youth via Facebook Live Streaming, post resources on website for our parents and school age children
- Make Zoom video conferencing application available to conduct other meetings like Session and CE for those self-quarantining
- Publish weekly worship service information and news updates via e-mail and mailing that same information to those without e-mails instead of a monthly PresbyNews
- Email daily devotionals
- Make available those who need assistance in getting groceries and medication through Parish Nurse and Deacons
- Melodrama has been postponed TBD
- No communion until this crisis is over
- Community Breakfast will become a grab and go, served outside with less than 10 volunteers to make it happen. John our Police Officer will make sure that our guests keep safe distance a part to comply with all recommendations by health department.

As always, we want to remain connected to Christ and one another through this pandemic, feeding faith and not fear. And, yet, always ready to be a Good Samaritan to those in need. We have established a COVID 19 Fund to help those financially impacted by this virus. You may help by sending contributions to this fund knowing guidelines have been established in its administration. As always, your patience is appreciated as well as your sense of humor and creativity. If you have further suggestions, how we might feed our faith and not our fear, let me know.

Worship online with us at 10:45 am by going to this link www.firstchurchwichita.org/media/Live-Streaming. Invite a friend to join us. We will also be livestreaming through our Facebook page First Presbyterian Church Wichita, KS.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Brent

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear.” Psalm 46:1-2.

**Praying for the Church Family**- As a congregation we weekly focus our personal and corporate prayers upon a selection of church members and friends. Let us remember in prayer this week the following: Eric & Tammi Schulte and family, Megan Cabrales and family, Betty Brodersen, Pat Mah, Susan Urban and Cleo Richards.

**First Presbyterian Memorial Scholarship Applications Due by April 1, 2020.**
The FPC Memorial Scholarship awards up to $1000 for books, tuition, and fees each year to eligible students. You can find more information about eligibility and the applications on the table outside the office. Contact Alice Price at 267-6853 with any questions.
Ceremony held at 12th and Jackson on March 13
March 13 Commemoration of Church Organization

About 50 brave souls ventured out in the cold weather to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the organization of First Presbyterian Church. They gathered at the site of the original dugout which was used in the winter of 1869-70 as a place of worship by the fledgling congregation.

Five re-enactors presented the story of the organization. They were Amy Sayles (Marilyn Heffner), William Smith (Bob Workman), Rev. W. K. Boggs (Gary Huffman), William Finn (Bruce Cole), and Rev. J. P. Harsen (Russ Davisson).

Gary Huffman, Archivist, shared some of the history of the site which now belongs to the Board of Education. The Finn Memorial Park was established in 1975 to honor the site of the first school and the first church in Wichita. The large granite marker contains two bronze plaques, each describing the important of the location.

LENTEN STUDIES!
How do we walk with Christ—daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? Adam Hamilton, noted author and senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, has just produced a new series entitled The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life. These essential spiritual practices are rooted in Jesus’ own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament.

The group date and time is as follows:
Wednesday Mar. 25 6:30-8:00 a.m.-accessible using Zoom application - Brent Johnston Participants will need to download zoom software first by going the following website address: https://zoom.us/j/382626040?pwd=U0YzTzNTaWFCS01pd21UZFd5eHJEdz09 Then enter Meeting ID: 382 626 040 Password: 068015

Sunday Kids Connection
Kids Connection will be prerecorded and part of the livestream worship service at 10:45 a.m. to stay connected with our children ages 4 through 11. Each week we complete a chapter and share how to apply the word of God to our everyday lives.
CALENDAR

Sunday, March 22
10:45  Worship Livestream (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, March 24
10:00  Pastoral Staff Mtg (Hobbs)
11:00  Staff Mtg (Hobbs)

Wednesday, March 25
5:30  Wednesday Clubs-Facebook Live
6:30  Lenten Studies-accessible through Zoom video conferencing application

Saturday, March 28
11:00  Brent’s Bible Study w/WRCC (Hobbs)

Sunday, March 29
10:45  Worship Livestream (Sanctuary)

We will not be publishing the PresbyNews for April due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. The information available and restrictions for public gatherings is changing so rapidly that publishing the PresbyNews would not contain accurate information for our members. Instead we will be creating a Weekly News Update which will be posted on the website and sent to members via e-mail to keep everyone informed of church activities that will be available through livestreaming, social media, teleconferencing applications, etc. The Weekly News Update will provide more up to date information as new information becomes available. Members without e-mails will receive the same information contained in the Weekly News Update through the mail.

If you need a Stephen Minister, or would like more information about the Stephen Ministry, please contact Rev. Brent Johnston or Louise Farmer at lfarmer4164@gmail.com.